

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From : Gerry Hyland, Supervisor
Mount Vernon District

Subject: BOARD MATTERS for March 3, 2015

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

- 1. Request for the Office of Public Affairs to Advertise Mount Vernon's Ides of Bark Event**
- 2. Joint Board Matter with Supervisor McKay to Recognize the Contributions of Mrs. Sue Keeler to Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Fairfax County**
- 3. Request for the County Executive and County Attorney to Review and Recommend Regulations on the Transportation of Loaded Rifles and Shotguns**

1. Request for the Office of Public Affairs to Advertise Mount Vernon's Ides of Bark Event

Background

Julius Caesar may have had to beware the Ides of March (do you think he got the point), but the canines of Fairfax County and their human companions are welcome to come out and enjoy the Ides of Bark! The Ides of Bark is Mount Vernon's first and soon to be famous event for dogs and dog owners to enjoy games, prizes, food, health assessments, pet adoptions, dog registrations and demonstrations by Fairfax County's Police Canine Unit. What better way to ring in Spring than to get outside and let your dog run off all their cooped up winter energy. The Ides of Bark will be held at Grist Mill Park from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. with a rain date of March 22nd. I hope the event will be fun and informative. All are welcome to attend.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to advertise and promote the Ides of Bark on Channel 16, new releases and social media.

Attachment

2. Joint Board Matter with Supervisor McKay to Recognize the Contributions of Mrs. Sue Keeler to Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Fairfax County

Background

For the last forty years, the Executive Directors of Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens have relied upon Mrs. Sue Keeler to give tours to Monarchs, Presidents, Heads of State, Senators, Congressmen, VIPs and other dignitaries. Sue's incredible depth of knowledge about the history of the estate and the life and legacy of George Washington along with her endearing charm has been critical for Mount Vernon to attract major donors. The transformation of Mount Vernon into an institute of learning is due, in large part, because of her efforts. As Sue continues her career at the Estate, an institution where she has dedicated her life, I wish to bring her before the Board of Supervisors to be recognized for her service and contribution to Fairfax County.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to invite Sue Keeler to come before the Board to be recognized for her accomplishments and continued service to Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

3. Request for the County Executive and County Attorney to Review and Recommend Regulations on the Transportation of Loaded Rifles and Shotguns

Background

During this legislative session, the General Assembly passed an amendment to Virginia Code § 15.2-915.2 that gives enabling authority to local governments to pass an ordinance that makes it unlawful for “any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality.” The amendment creates a new exemption for conceal carry permit holders in addition to the other exempted categories of persons, which are “duly authorized law-enforcement officers or military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, nor to any person who reasonably believes that a loaded rifle or shotgun is necessary for his personal safety in the course of his employment or business.” The Governor has until the end of March to decide whether or not to sign the legislation.

Fairfax County has not adopted a local ordinance based on this enabling legislation. Given our current prohibition on the discharge of firearms in certain areas where the population density makes it a threat to public safety, it seems reasonable, given our population densities and traffic, that Fairfax County should evaluate and debate whether such a prohibition is reasonable. Therefore, I ask that the Board of Supervisors refer this matter to the County Executive and County Attorney to evaluate and return to the Board with their recommendation on the legislation.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive’s office and the County Attorney to review the existing and enacted statute and recommend whether the Board of Supervisors should adopt such an ordinance.

Attachment